THE ETERNALS

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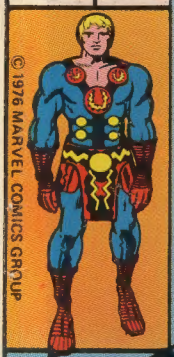
WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™



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HE CAN'T BE CONTROLLED!

HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!

HE'S...THE KILLING MACHINE!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE ETERNALS!**™ C-159

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY	INKED AND LETTERED BY: MIKE ROYER	COLORED BY: GLYNIS WEIN	PERUSED BY: ARCHIE GOODWIN

WHO WERE THE SPACE GODS, WHOSE IMAGES ENGRAVED ON ANCIENT STONE TAUNTED US WITH AN AWESOME MYSTERY THAT MAY THUNDER TO LIFE IN TOMORROW'S SKIES?

WHO WERE THE DEVILS AND DEMONS THAT PLAGUED THE FOOTSTEPS OF HUMANITY AND FILLED ITS DREAMS WITH TERRORS THAT LINGER TO THIS DAY?

WHO ARE WE? CAN WE BE THE TRUE INHERITORS OF THE EARTH -- OR ONE OF MANY SEEDS PLANTED BY CELESTIAL HANDS?

READ ON!! SEE THE FANTASTIC BECOME REALITY!! SEE--

THE KILLING MACHINE!!

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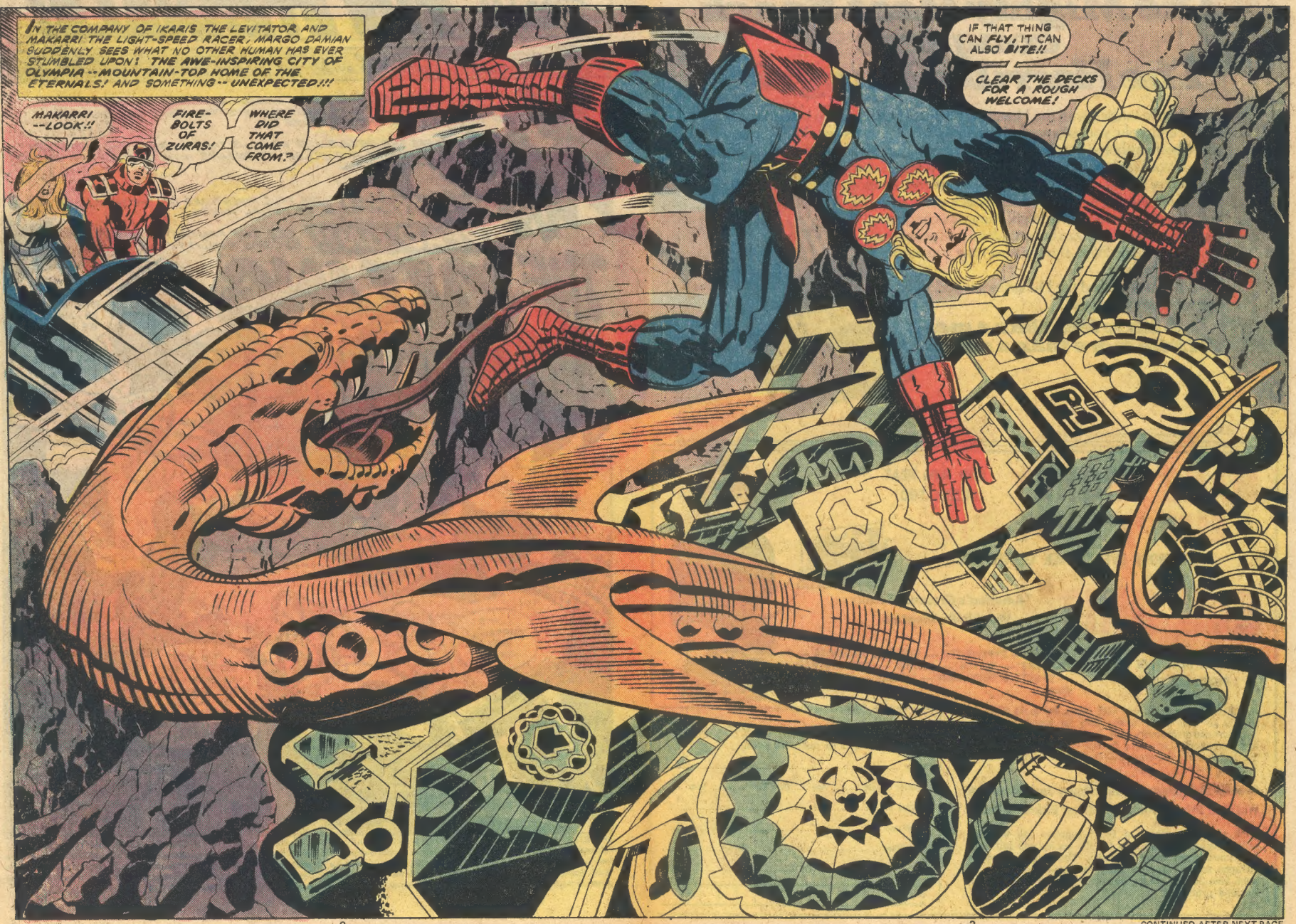

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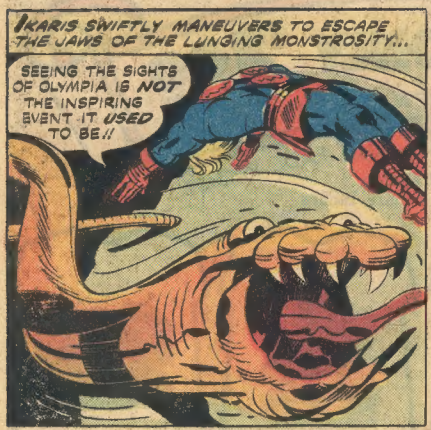
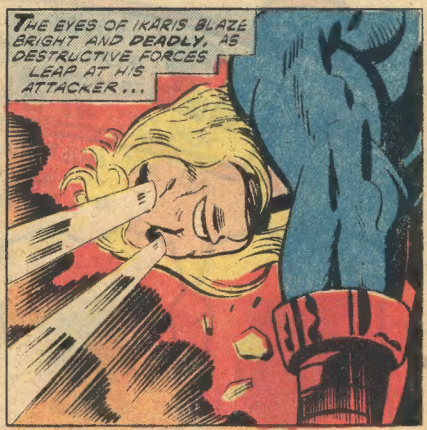
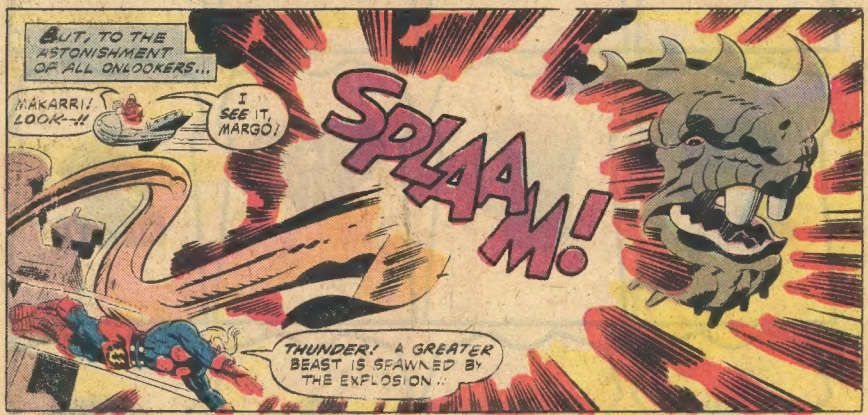
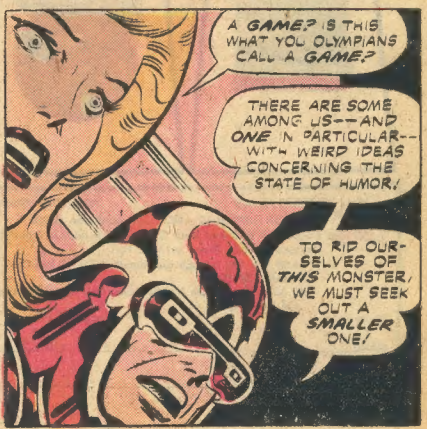
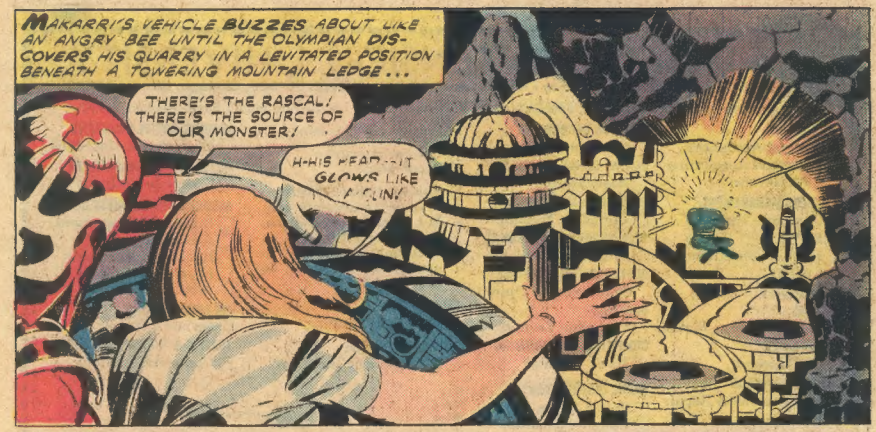

IKARIS SWIFTLY MANEUVERS TO ESCAPE THE JAWS OF THE LUNGING MONSTROSITY...
SEEING THE SIGHTS OF OLYMPIA IS NOT THE INSPIRING EVENT IT USED TO BE!!

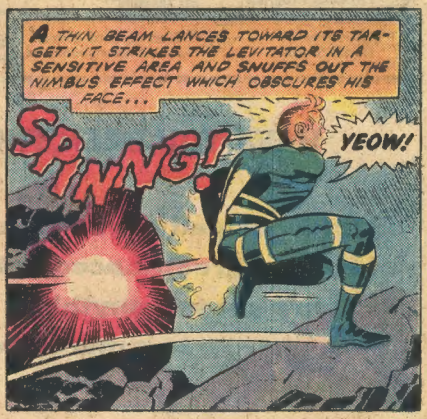

THE EYES OF IKARIS BLAZE BRIGHT AND DEADLY, AS DESTRUCTIVE FORCES LEAP AT HIS ATTACKER...

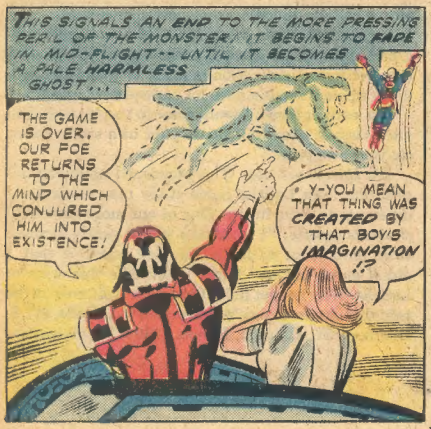

BUT, TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF ALL ONLOOKERS...
MAKARRI! LOOK--!!
I SEE IT, MARGO!
SPLAAM!
THUNDER! A GREATER BEAST IS SPAWNED BY THE EXPLOSION..

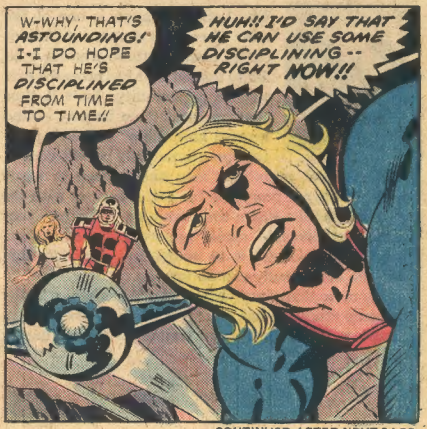
IKARIS IS SOON FLEEING A NEW AND MORE DANGEROUS PURSUER...
THIS HAS BECOME A GAME NOT TO MY LIKING!!


A GAME? IS THIS WHAT YOU OLYMPIANS CALL A GAME?
THERE ARE SOME AMONG US--AND ONE IN PARTICULAR--WITH WEIRD IDEAS CONCERNING THE STATE OF HUMOR!
TO RID OURSELVES OF THIS MONSTER, WE MUST SEEK OUT A SMALLER ONE!









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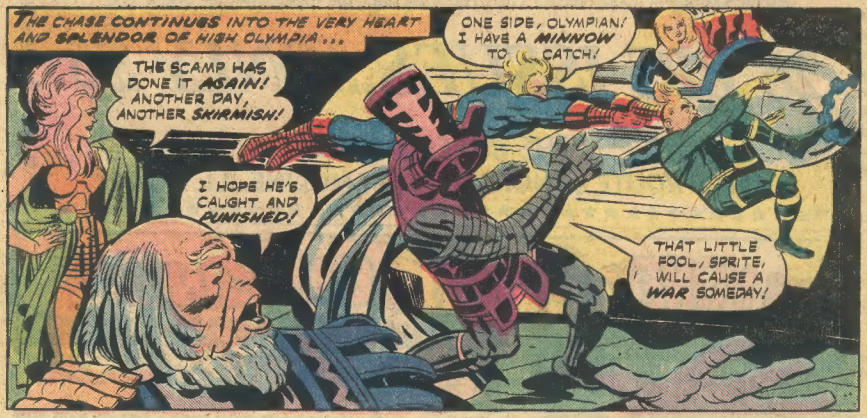
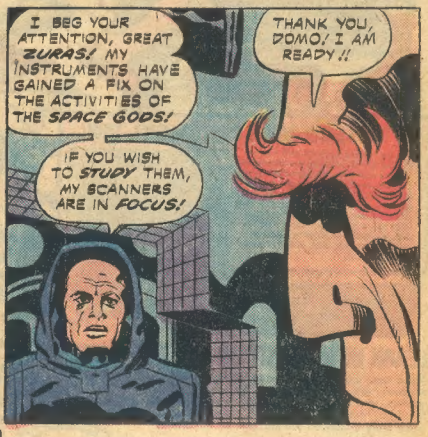
DESPITE THEIR NEVER-ENDING PURSUIT OF PEACE, ETERNALS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO SOME VERY HUMAN WAYS OF ACHIEVING IT...
IKARIS OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS DOES NOT TAKE THIS KIND OF WELCOME LIGHTLY! HOLD FAST, YOUNG ONE!!
SURELY YOU JOSH, DUMB ONE!!
SPRITE!! YOU ANGER AN HONORED GUEST! SUBMIT TO DISCIPLINE!!


THE CHASE CONTINUES INTO THE VERY HEART AND SPLENDOR OF HIGH OLYMPIA...
THE SCAMP HAS DONE IT AGAIN! ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER SKIRMISH!
I HOPE HE'S CAUGHT AND PUNISHED!
ONE SIDE, OLYMPIAN! I HAVE A MINNOW TO CATCH!
THAT LITTLE FOOL, SPRITE, WILL CAUSE A WAR SOMEDAY!

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE WISER EYES THAT VIEW THE SCENE WITH PATIENCE AND EXPERIENCE SO VAST THAT TIME ITSELF BOWS TO THEIR PERSPECTIVE...
EVEN DURING THIS TIME OF THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF ALL THINGS ON EARTH, THE YOUNG IGNORE ALL BUT THEIR YOUTH!!


I BEG YOUR ATTENTION, GREAT ZURAS! MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE GAINED A FIX ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SPACE GODS!
IF YOU WISH TO STUDY THEM, MY SCANNERS ARE IN FOCUS!
THANK YOU, DOMO! I AM READY!!

ZURAS, FROM HIS MOUNTAIN-TOP, WILL SEE WHAT THE HUMANS ARE ALREADY WITNESS TO BELOW. IN A SOVIET WAR ROOM, A GREATLY ENLARGED PHOTO IS STUDIED...

THIS IS NO PHANTOM, COMRADE GENERAL! THIS IS A GIANT--NOW AT LARGE IN THE SIBERIAN WILDERNESS!!

UNBELIEVABLE!! HAS THIS PHOTOGRAPH BEEN CHECKED FOR EVIDENCE OF SOME PRANK?!

THE PICTURE IS AUTHENTIC! WE ARE FACED WITH IMMEDIATE DECISIONS!

NEZZARR OF THE FOURTH HOST CREATES NO GREATER STIR IN SIBERIA THAN THE SIGHT OF ONEG, IN THE VAST HINTERLANDS OF AUSTRALIA...

THAT'S HIM, LADS! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY WILD STORY NOW!?

STAND CLEAR OF HIM! HE'S AN OUTER SPACER FOR CERTAIN!

A DINGO U.F.O.!

THE SPACE GODS OF THE INCA CARVINGS HAVE SUDDENLY RE-APPEARED TO CONFRONT HUMANS EVERYWHERE! HARGEN THE ANALYZER TREADS THE SWISS ALPS, MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF VETERAN CLIMBERS...

HOLY TOLEDO!!

WHAT'S T-THAT!?

CAREFUL! GRIP THE ROPE--OR YOU'LL DROP ME!

LOOK AT IT! LOOK AT IT!

BUT IT IS ESON WHO GENERATES THE MOST EXCITEMENT! IN MIAMI BEACH, SCORES OF BATHERS RUSH TO THE SURF AND STARE BREATHLESSLY OUT TO SEA...

DON'T PUSH, LADY! YOU CAN SEE HIM AS WELL AS I DO!

H-HE'S BIGGER THAN THAT OCEAN LINER SAILING NEAR HIM!

B-BUT, IT'S A GIANT!

W-WHAT IS HE?? W-WHERE DID HE COME FROM??

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ESON, LIKE THE OTHERS OF THE FOURTH HOST, IS A PRODUCT SPAWNED BY THE COSMOS ITSELF! IT IS SMALL WONDER THAT HE TOWERS ABOVE THE MARVELS OF MAN, FOR HE IS FROM PLACES WHERE MARVELS EXPAND TENFOLD, IN TIME CONTINUUMS TOO AWESOME FOR HUMANS TO BEHOLD...
I CAN'T RISK FLYING ANY CLOSER! HE MAY SWAT US OUT OF THE SKY!
ARE YOU DAFT? THIS CAMERA WILL GET A CLOSE-UP SHOT WORTH A FORTUNE!
RADIO THE COAST GUARD-- QUICKLY!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
DON'T GET HYSTERICAL. YOU'LL PANIC THE OTHERS!
WHAT IF IT DECIDES TO SINK THE SHIP?!
WHY DON'T THEY INCREASE THE SPEED AND GET US OUT OF HERE!
THAT THING ISN'T REAL! I HEAR THERE'S A MOVIE OUTFIT ON LOCATION THAT'S SHOOTING A SCIENCE FICTION FILM!
IT FRIGHTENS ME, HARRY!! PLEASE HEAD BACK FOR SHORE!

THE WATERS SOON CLOSE OVER ESON. HE VANISHES BENEATH THE SEA WITHOUT A DISTURBING RIPPLE. HIS MOUNTAINOUS BULK GLIDES FORWARD INTO THE DEEPS-- AND INTO THE DOMAIN OF THE DEVIANTS...

MILES AHEAD LIE THE RUINS OF ANCIENT LEMURIA-- A PROUD AND CRUEL CIVILIZATION WHICH FELL BEFORE THE WRATH OF THE SPACE GODS...

DESPITE THIS DEFEAT IN A BYGONE AGE, THE DEVIANT SPECIES HAS SURVIVED. ONE OF THEIR UNDERSEA CRAFT CRUISES BEYOND THE RUINS TO THEIR HIDDEN CITY...

THE CRAFT EMERGES IN A MAZE OF CANALS AND BIZARRE STRUCTURES WHICH RIVAL ANY MODERN HUMAN CITY IN COMPLEXITY...

PRIDE HAS NOT BEEN LOST HERE, AND CRUELTY IS AT ITS ZENITH-- FOR GREAT TODE AND HIS RULING FAMILY STILL ENJOY THEIR FAVORITE SPECTATOR SPORT: THE COMBAT TO THE DEATH!

LET THESE PROCEEDINGS BEGIN!

MORE THAN MERE DEATH GAMES, THIS IS BUT ANOTHER FORM OF ELIMINATION OF THE UNDESIRABLE MUTATES THAT SPRING FROM THE DEVIANTS' UNSTABLE ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

THIS EVENT IS DEDICATED TO YOU, MY DEAR THENA! TO LURE AN ETERNAL FROM HER MOUNTAIN-TOP TO THESE REGIONS IS AN OCCASION INDEED!

I AM NOT PLEASED, GREAT TODE! THIS IS ANYTHING BUT A FAIR MATCH!

ER-- FORGIVE HER, GREAT TODE! SHE CANNOT JUDGE THESE AFFAIRS BY OUR STANDARDS!

ENOUGH, THENA! ENOUGH!

BEGIN! BEGIN!

THE REJECT TURNS TO HIS FOE, BUT HIS DEATH WILL BE SWIFT!

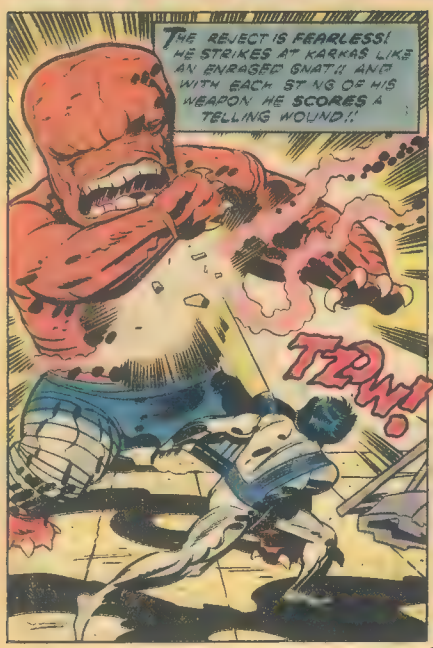
YOU WASTE YOUR SYMPATHIES ON AN OUTCAST, SWEET ETERNAL!

FOOLS! HE'S THE ONLY THING OF BEAUTY IN THIS UGLY DOMAIN!

THENA! SIT DOWN! WE CAN DO NOTHING!!

LET THE COMBAT PROCEED! THE REJECT CAN DEFEND HIMSELF!

BUT NOT FOR LONG! HAHAHA!



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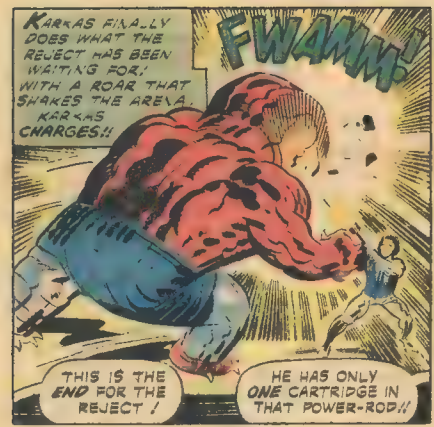
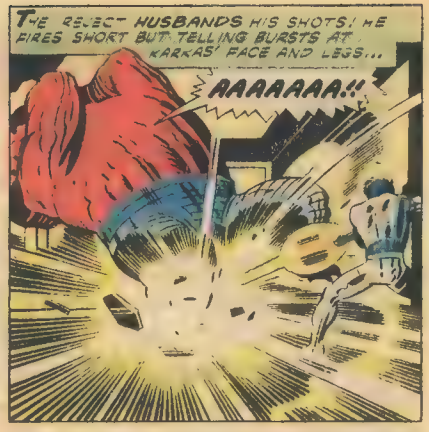
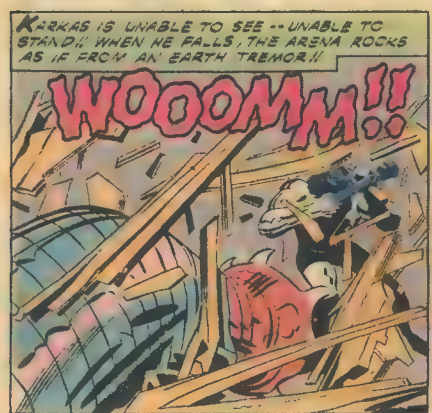
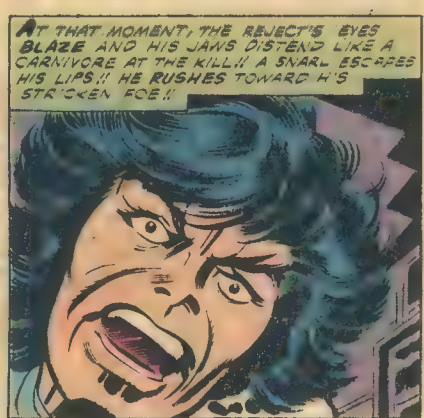
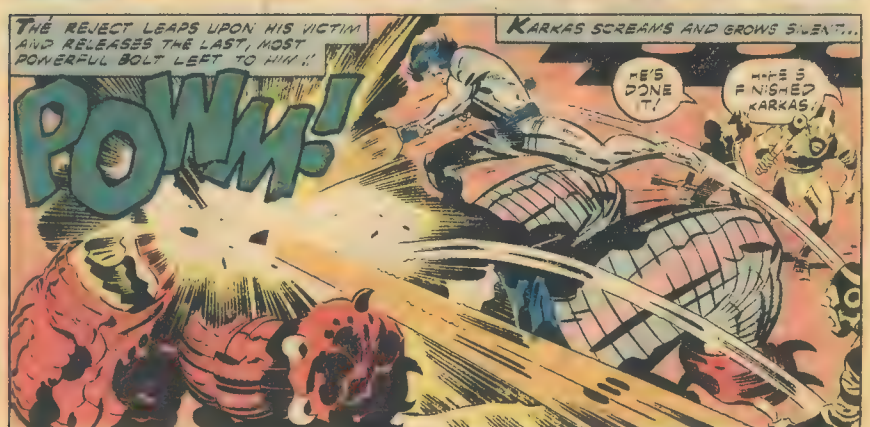
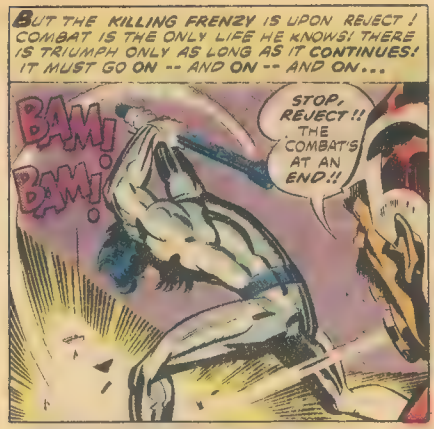

KARKAS FINALLY DOES WHAT THE REJECT HAS BEEN WAITING FOR! WITH A ROAR THAT SHAKES THE ARENA, KARKAS CHARGES!!
FWAMM!
THIS IS THE END FOR THE REJECT!
HE HAS ONLY ONE CARTRIDGE IN THAT POWER-ROD!!

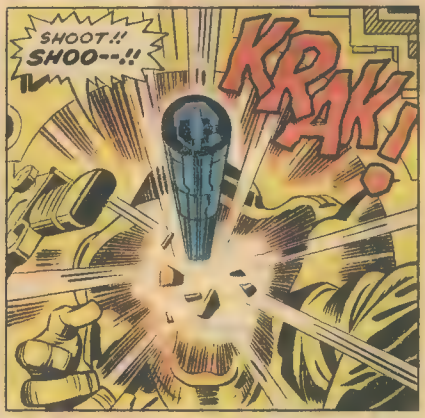

THE REJECT HUSBANDS HIS SHOTS! HE FIRES SHORT BUT TELLING BURSTS AT KARKAS' FACE AND LEGS...
AAAAAAA!!

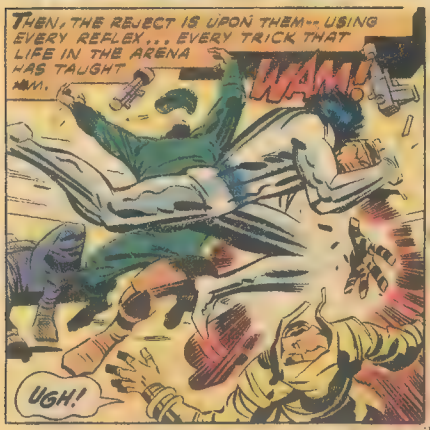

KARKAS IS UNABLE TO SEE -- UNABLE TO STAND!! WHEN HE FALLS, THE ARENA ROCKS AS IF FROM AN EARTH TREMOR!!
WOOOMM!!


AT THAT MOMENT, THE REJECT'S EYES BLAZE AND HIS JAWS DISTEND LIKE A CARNIVORE AT THE KILL!! A SNARL ESCAPES HIS LIPS!! HE RUSHES TOWARD HIS STRICKEN FOE!!


THE REJECT LEAPS UPON HIS VICTIM AND RELEASES THE LAST, MOST POWERFUL BOLT LEFT TO HIM!!
POWM!
KARKAS SCREAMS AND GROWS SILENT...
HE'S DONE IT!
HAS HE FINISHED KARKAS?







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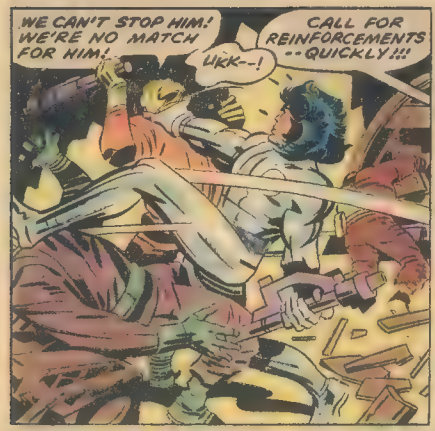
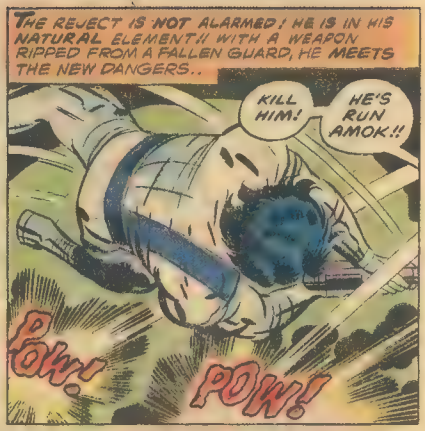
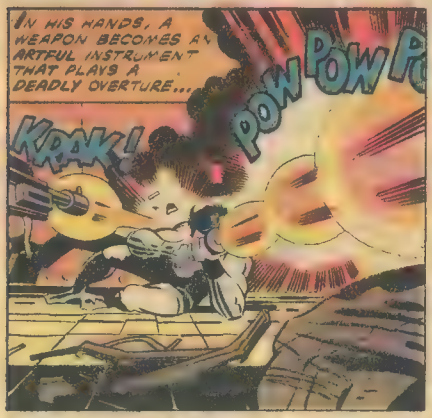
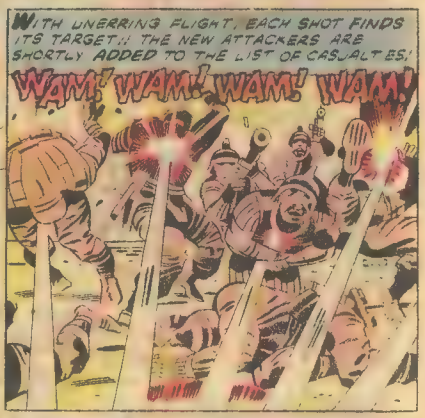
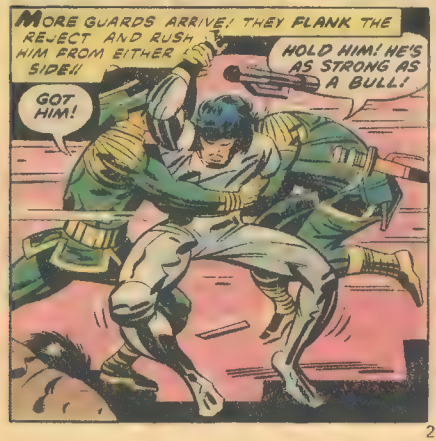
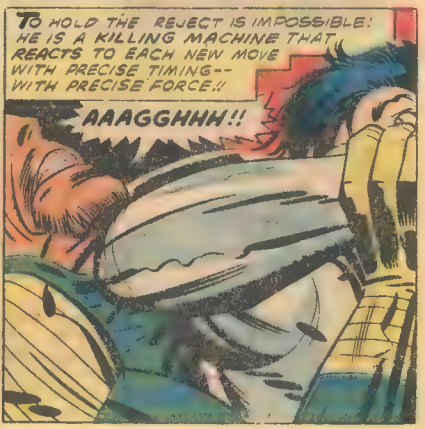

WE CAN'T STOP HIM! WE'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM!
CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS --QUICKLY!!!
UKK--!

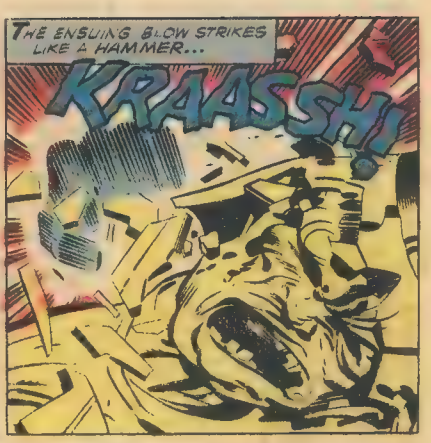

THE REJECT IS NOT ALARMED! HE IS IN HIS NATURAL ELEMENT!! WITH A WEAPON RIPPED FROM A FALLEN GUARD, HE MEETS THE NEW DANGERS..
KILL HIM!
HE'S RUN AMOK!!
POW!
POW!

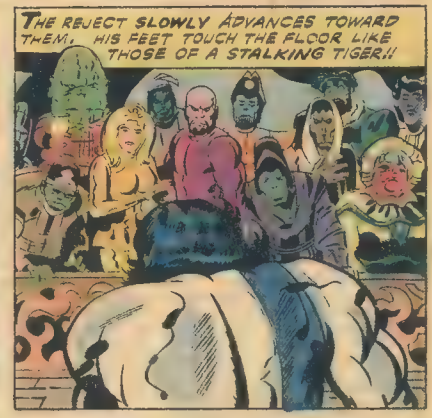

IN HIS HANDS, A WEAPON BECOMES AN ARTFUL INSTRUMENT THAT PLAYS A DEADLY OVERTURE...
KRAK!
POW POW P

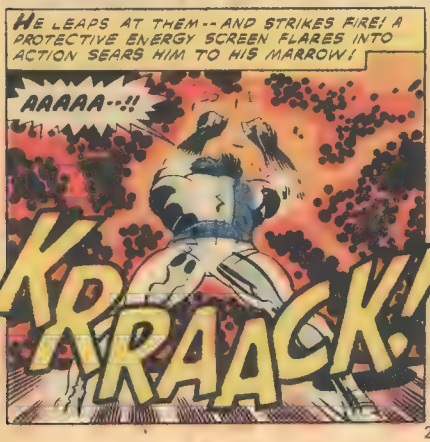

WITH UNERRING FLIGHT, EACH SHOT FINDS ITS TARGET!! THE NEW ATTACKERS ARE SHORTLY ADDED TO THE LIST OF CASUALTIES!
WAM! WAM! WAM! WAM!


MORE GUARDS ARRIVE! THEY FLANK THE REJECT AND RUSH HIM FROM EITHER SIDE!!
HOLD HIM! HE'S AS STRONG AS A BULL!
GOT HIM!


TO HOLD THE REJECT IS IMPOSSIBLE! HE IS A KILLING MACHINE THAT REACTS TO EACH NEW MOVE WITH PRECISE TIMING-- WITH PRECISE FORCE!!
AAAGGHHH!!







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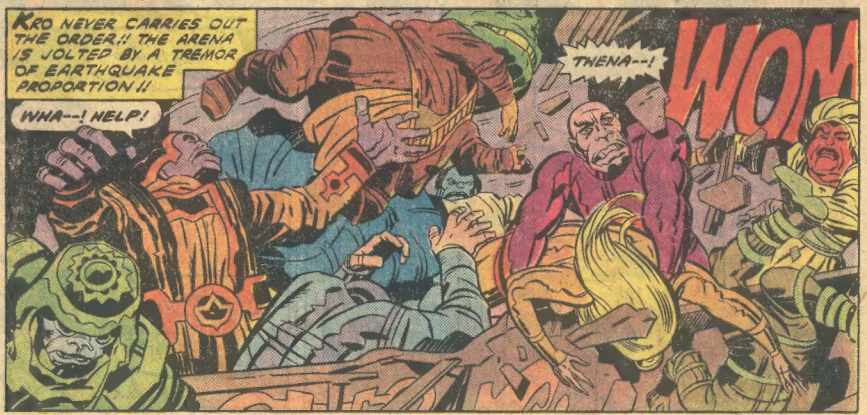
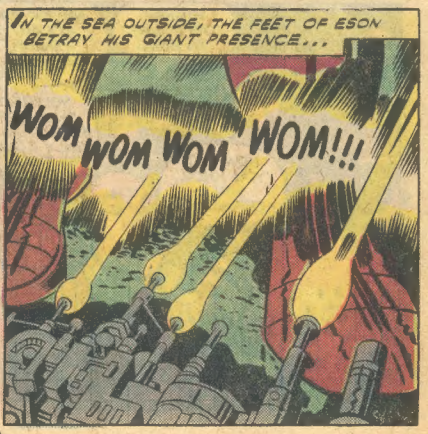
I'LL KILL YOU ALL!! YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL SEE!!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE IS LIVING EVIDENCE THAT DEVIANT GENES HAVE SOMEHOW REACHED AN IMPROVED LEVEL OF CHANGE!!
POOR CREATURE! THE LOT OF AN OUTCAST HAS ROBBED HIM OF ANY WORTHY EMOTIONS!! I-I PITY HIM.

SUDDENLY, GREAT TODE SPEAKS...
SILENCE! THE REJECT CAN NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO LIVE!
HAVE HIM DESTROYED, KRO!
I'LL SEE TO IT, SIRE!


KRO NEVER CARRIES OUT THE ORDER!! THE ARENA IS JOLTED BY A TREMOR OF EARTHQUAKE PROPORTION!!
WHA--! HELP!
THENA--!
WOM

WOM WOM WOM
LISTEN! THEY'RE FIRING OUR PROTECTIVE WEAPONS SYSTEM! THE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK!


IN THE SEA OUTSIDE, THE FEET OF ESON BETRAY HIS GIANT PRESENCE...
WOM WOM WOM WOM!!!

THE TREMENDOUS POWER UNLEASHED AGAINST HIM DOES LITTLE TO DISTURB HIM--ESON KNOWS POWER WELL!

HE DRAWS IT TO HIM AND DRAINS THE WEAPONS SYSTEM...

EMPTYING THE CITY OF POWER IS ALSO A SIMPLE TASK. GLOWING, UNDULATING WAVES OF ENERGY RISE FROM EVERY STRUCTURE AND VANISH SEAWARD...

IN THE ARENA, THE ANIMAL INSTINCTS OF THE REJECT RELAY STRANGE MESSAGES... SOMEHOW, HE SENSES THAT THE ENERGY BARRIER WHICH SEPERATES HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES IS GONE!!

THE REJECT CAUTIOUSLY EXTENDS HIS HAND. IT PAUSES WHERE THE BARRIER SHOULD BE. THEN IT MOVES AHEAD, PIERCING DEAD SPACE AND NOTHING MORE...

HE IS NOW FREE TO WIPE OUT THE OBJECTS OF HIS BURNING HATE!! HE MOVES MENACINGLY FORWARD!!

WOW!

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN NEXT!! EVERYTHING HAPPENS NEXT!!!

STAND BY FOR "MOTHER"

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Brain-boggled Bullpen,

The real-life drama of the Viking Mars landing was paralleled, if not eclipsed, by the awesome goings-on in ETERNALS #5. Kirby and Royer are—stroke for stroke—the most engaging art team in the known galaxy, their glitzy style immediately rendering invalid all competition. Storywise, Thena, Kakarri, and Zuras have already proven themselves Eternal necessities on the fantasy team. Thanks, men! The addition of the infamous Royeresque backgrounds is propelling this book right up to the pinnacle of contemporary comics.

Steve Beery
1614 Union St.
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Jack,

If you can spare a few minutes from reading all the outpourings of praise, perhaps you'll consider these reasons why the Eternals can't possibly fit into the rest of the Marvel Universe:

1) The cast of characters introduced in issue #5 is obviously supposed to represent Zeus, Mercury, Athena, and the rest of the Greco-Roman gods. However, Zeus, Ares, Hercules, and the rest have appeared off and on for years in AVENGERS and THOR—Zuras even looks just like Zeus. How can two different sets of Greek gods exist in the same universe?

2) The population of New York, as depicted in the ETERNALS, has apparently never seen a super-hero or super-villain before Kro showed up. After being invaded by everyone from the Impossible Man to Galactus, aren't the Marvel Universe New Yorkers getting used to this sort of thing? If the ETERNALS is taking place in the Marvel Universe, why hasn't anyone called the Fantastic Four or the Avengers for help? The excuse that all the super-heroes were out of town just won't wash. The ETERNALS has been running for five months with all the action taking place in New York, and not one Marvel hero has appeared.

And the clincher is the general on the last page of issue #5. Unless he's been in hibernation throughout his military career, he's seen plenty of "spacedevils, alien giants" and much worse—if he's part of the Marvel Universe.

I really don't see how you can explain all these factors away and still place the ETERNALS into the same milieu as the rest of Marvel's characters and I see nothing wrong with that. Conan and Kull have gotten along fine without guest appearances by Spider Man or the Thing. And the Eternals have gotten along quite well so far without injecting other Marvel heroes.

I hope you'll continue to keep the Eternals off in a world of their own—the real Earth, not another dimension.

Paul Carlsen
50 Forest Lawn Ave.
Stamford, CT 06905

The *real* Earth?!? You mean this one? Aw, come on! Doesn't New York have enough problems without real attacking Deviants?

Seriously though, Paul, we think you are misjudging the inhabitants of the Marvel Universe. In that parallel reality, the average man on the street is pretty much the same as you or we. And if you think the average New Yorker could ever get used to crazy weirdos zooming down out of the sky...well, we've got some New Jersey swampland that may interest you! We've already explained the "everybody's out of town" situation in an earlier column. And the Demon battle in New York lasted less than a day, not the five months which you claim. As for the general being in hibernation, do you honestly think that every officer of the armed forces has seen titans clash, to coin a phrase? This armadillo knows one ex-G.I. who served in 'Nam and never heard a shot fired in anger!

Now, getting to the point of the relationship between the Greco-Roman gods and...oh, wait! Here's a letter that deals with that quite nicely!

Dear Jack, Mike, Glynis, and Archie:

By now you're probably swimming in all the mail from the many and varied frantic types, screaming and shouting that the Eternals can't possibly exist in the Marvel Universe and vice versa.

Baloney.

Oh, I can hear them now: "Thena is Athena, and Makarri is Mercury, and Zuras is Zeus...so this *can't* be Marvel-Earth! Marvel-Earth already has those gods."

To those people, I repeat...baloney!

Has anyone around here ever heard of mistaken identity? You have? Good! Then picture this: A tall, red-haired type wanders into a small Grecian village around 3000 B.C., stops for a drink of water, and tosses off a few lightning bolts. "It's Zeus!" cries your average Greek. "You've got me confused with someone else," says the stranger. "My name's Zuras!" "Gee," thinks the Greek, "Zeus has a speak impediment!" Exit one Eternal, shaking his head.

It's not so far-fetched to think that *some* of the Greek myths were inspired by the exploits of the Eternals. Neither Ikaris nor Sersi (or, if you prefer, Icarus and Circe) are part of the mythological pantheon of the gods. If you look around the far corners of Olympus, you will *not* find an Icarus or a Circe. Moreover, there was certainly no Domo in the Greco-Roman myths.

To sum it all up, in the Marvel Universe there is Olympia, a city of Eternals hidden far away on a mountain—*and* there is Olympus, a mighty land of gods secreted away in an adjacent dimension. Olympia *and* Olympus! And both of them work within the framework.

'Nuff said.

Lou Fetters
RR #1
Plainfield, IN 46168

Ah, thank you, Lou! You've made this armadillo's day! Much appreciated, sir!

Dear Marvel,

ETERNALS #5 was, by far, the best issue yet. I really enjoyed the fun that Jack Kirby seems to have with his characters. The interplay between Makarri, Thena, and Zuras is quite delightful, and these Eternals promise to be the most interesting yet. It's nice to have the cast of characters introduced as slowly as is being done with the Eternals, because it allows the reader to get to know each of them as individuals. I hope Mr. Kirby continues to humorously portray each of the Eternals as entertaining and provocative figures. This is one of the biggest reasons why Olympia is so intriguing. I hope we get to see much more of it and its inhabitants.

THE ETERNALS has really begun to take shape now, and it promises much more excitement than it did at the start. You've got me as a regular until Thena drops out of sight, Olympia forbid!

Mike Christiansen
704 South Third St.
Rockford, IL 61108

All of which leaves us with just enough room to remind you to meet us back here in just thirty days for the sake of the you know-whos!

scanned by *Wizard*